

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) An apparatus for sorting small
2 objects, the apparatus comprising
3 a trough having a longitudinally extending groove along
4 which the objects can slide, the groove having a floor formed with
5 a throughgoing slot of a width substantially smaller than a
6 predetermined minimum object width, whereby if any of the objects
7 is of a width smaller than the minimum object width it will fall
8 through the slot as it slides along the floor, the floor being
9 formed to one side of the slot with a braking formation that
10 engages and rotates the objects about vertical axes as the objects
11 slide past the slot.

1 2. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 1
2 wherein the slot is centrally formed in the groove.

1 3. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 2
2 wherein the slot is elongated longitudinally of the groove.

1 4. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 3
2 wherein the floor is V-shaped.

5. (canceled)

1 6. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 3
2 wherein the groove is of generally rectangular section and has a
3 pair of generally parallel, horizontally spaced, and vertical side
4 walls and an upwardly directed floor bridging lower edges of the
5 side walls and formed with the slot.

1 7. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 6
2 wherein the slot is offset inward from both of the side walls.

1 8. (canceled)

1 9. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 3
2 wherein the trough is inclined to the horizontal.

1 10. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 3
2 wherein the groove is upwardly open.

1 11. (original) The sorting apparatus defined in claim
2 3, further comprising
3 means for vibrating the trough.

1 12. (original) An apparatus for sorting small
2 cylindrical objects, the apparatus comprising
3 a trough having a longitudinally extending groove along
4 which the objects can slide, the groove being of generally
5 rectangular upwardly open shape and having a pair of upright and
6 horizontally spaced side walls and an upwardly directed floor
7 bridging lower edges of the side walls, the floor being formed
8 offset from the side walls with a vertically throughgoing slot of a
9 width substantially smaller than a predetermined minimum object
10 width, whereby if any of the objects is of a diameter smaller than
11 the minimum object width it will fall through the slot as it slides
12 along the floor, one of the side walls being formed at the slot
13 with an inwardly directed braking formation engageable with the
14 objects as they slide past the slot to rotate same about vertical
15 axes.

1 13. (new) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 12
2 wherein the braking formation is a roughening, whereby the objects
3 engage the one side with greater friction than the other side.

1 14. (new) The sorting apparatus defined in claim 1
2 wherein the braking formation is a roughening, whereby the objects
3 engage the one side with greater friction than the other side.